

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in the light of the final Office Action dated April 24, 2006. Claims 51 to 53 and 55 are pending in the application. Claims 51 and 53 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

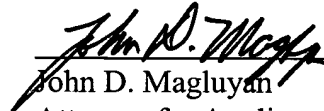
In the Office Action, Claims 51 to 53 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,357,011 (Gilbert) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,514 (Wood). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicants submit herewith a sworn translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 10-208536, from which the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. In accordance with MPEP § 201.15, the Examiner is requested to confirm that Applicants are entitled to their July 9, 1998 priority date. Once the Examiner makes such a determination, the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove Gilbert, dated March 12, 2002 and Wood, dated January 23, 2001, as references against the subject application. Gilbert and Wood having been so removed as references, the foregoing § 103(a) rejection is believed to be obviated.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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